

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 IO-03 VO-01 NEA-09 SY-04 SAJ-01

CPR-01 SCA-01 NIC-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-04 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 DRC-01 /099 W

----- 114336

R 010719Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9329

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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USIA FOR IEE

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: CVIS UR US PFOR SREF

REF: LENINGRAD 434, MOSCOW 2196

1. MRS. POLINA EPELMAN OF LENINGRAD (USG REPRESENTATION LIST 16) VISITED EMBASSY MAY 30 TO DISCUSS HER CONTINUING EFFORTS OBTAIN SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION FOR EMIGRATION TO US. SHE INFORMED CONSOFFS THAT SHE AND TWELVE-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER YULIYA INTEND COMMENCE THREE-DAY HUNGER STRIKE AT THEIR LENINGRAD APARTMENT JUNE 1 TO PROTEST AND DRAMATIZE REFUSAL OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES PERMIT THEIR REUNIFICATION

WITH HUSBAND/FATHER. (FYI: AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, ALTHOUGH HUSBAND IS IN ISRAEL, WHERE HE IS FACULTY MEMBER OF BEER-SHEVA UNIVERSITY, MRS. EPELMAN AND DAUGHTER HAVE APPLIED FOR EXIT PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE TO HER UNCLE LOUIS SCHULMAN, 178 EAST 7TH ST., NYC. END FYI).

2. EPELMAN STATED THAT HUNGER STRIKE IS TIMED TO INTERNATIONAL
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DAY OF DEFENSE OF CHILDREN ON JUNE 1. SHE GAVE CONSOFFS APPEALS

WHICH SHE HAS WRITTEN TO UN INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR DEFENSE OF CHILDREN, UN COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS. (LETTERS POUCHED EUR/SOV WITH REFERENCE THIS MESSAGE FOR ACTION AT DEPT. DISCRETION.)

3. EPELMAN ASKED THAT EMBASSY PUT HER IN TOUCH WITH US PRESS REPRESENTATIVES SO THAT SHE MAY INFORM THEM OF HUNGER STRIKE.

CONSOFFS REPLIED THAT THEY WILL NOT RPT NOT ACT AS INTERMEDIARIES BETWEEN SOVIET CITIZENS AND US PRESS, BUT THEY EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS INFORM PRESS REPRESENTATIVES OF THIS CASE IN CONTEXT OF OTHERS INASMUCH AS LATTER NOW SEEM TO BE INQUIRING ON CONTINUING BASIS CONCERNING PROGRESS OF USG FAMILY REUNIFICATION LIST. EPELMAN ACCEPTED THIS AND DID NOT PRESS FURTHER HER REQUEST THAT WE INTRODUCE HER TO CORRESPONDENTS. CONSOFFS SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED NYT BUREAU CHIEF SMITH OF THIS CASE WHEN LATTER VISITED SECTION LATER SAME DATE TO INQUIRE ABOUT SOVIET MILITIA INTERFERENCE WITH ACCESS TO EMBASSY (MOSCOW 8189) AND REPRESENTATION LIST PROGRESS. STOESEL

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